In the Claims

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1. (Previously presented) An *in vitro* method of screening human subjects to assess their risk of developing cervical carcinoma, which method comprises screening the subject for expression of mRNA transcripts of the E6 gene of HPV types 16, 18, 31, 33 and/or 45 and sorting the subject into one of two categories of risk for development of cervical carcinoma based on expression of E6 mRNA, wherein individuals positive for expression of E6 mRNA from at least one of HPV types 16, 18, 31, 33 or 45 are scored as carrying integrated HPV and are therefore classified as high risk for development of cervical carcinoma, whereas individuals negative for expression of E6 mRNA are scored as not carrying integrated HPV and are therefore classified as no detectable risk for development of cervical carcinoma.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein screening for E6 mRNA expression is carried out using an isothermal amplification method selected from the group consisting of Nucleic Acid Sequence Based Amplification (NASBA), transcription-mediated amplification, signal-mediated amplification of RNA and isothermal solution phase amplification.

4. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 3 wherein screening for E6 mRNA expression is carried out using real-time NASBA.

5. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the human subjects are subjects previously identified as infected with human papillomavirus DNA in cells of the cervix.

6. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the human subjects are subjects having a previous diagnosis of Atypical Squamous Cells of Undetermined Significance (ASCUS), Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia Grade I (CIN 1) lesions or condyloma.

7.-9. (Canceled)

10. (Withdrawn) A kit for use in the detection of mRNA transcripts of the E6 gene(s) of HPV, the kit comprising one or more primer-pairs which enable amplification of a region of E6 transcripts from HPV types 16, 18, 31 and 33 by NASBA and one or more molecular beacon probes.

11. (Withdrawn) A kit according to claim 10 which comprises separate primer-pairs specific for each of HPV types 16, 18, 31 and 33.

12. (Withdrawn) A kit according to claim 10 which comprises one or more of, two or more of and preferably all of the following primer pairs and accompanying identification probes:

5' gatgcaaggtcgcatatgagCCACAGGAGCGACCCAGAAA and 5'
AATTCTAATACGACTCACTATAGGGAGAAGGATTCCCATCTCTATATACTA
with probe TATGACTTTGCTTTTCGGGA;

5' gatgcaaggtcgcatatgagGAAAACGATGAAATAGATGGAG and 5'
AATTCTAATACGACTCACTATAGGGAGAAGGGGTCGTCTGCTGAGCTTTCT
with probe GAACCACAACGTCACACAATG;

5' gatgcaaggtcgcatatgagACTGACCTCCACTGTTATGA and 5'
AATTCTAATACGACTCACTATAGGGAGAAGGTATCTACTTGTGTGCTCTGT
with probe GGACAAGCAGAACCGGACACATCCAA; and

5' GATGCAAGGTCGCATATGAGTATCCTGAACCAACTGACCTAT and 5'

AATTCTAATACGACTCACTATAGGGAGAAGGTTGACACATAAACGAACTG
with probe GGACAAGCACAACCAGCCACAGC.

13.-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 which comprises screening for expression of mRNA transcripts of the E6 gene of at least one additional HPV type which is known to be prevalent in the geographical area or population under test.

21. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 which additionally comprises screening for expression of mRNA transcripts of the E6 gene of HPV type 52 and/or HPV type 58.

22. (New) A method according to claim 1 which comprises screening for expression of mRNA transcripts of the E6 gene of HPV types 16, 18, 31, 33 and 45.

23. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of sorting the subject into one of two categories of risk for development of cervical carcinoma based on expression of E6 mRNA alone.